

SGP Update

*The latest information on
the National Strategic Goals Program*



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IN THE NEWS

Welcome to our New Members!

Since our last issue, 4 new companies (2 from CA, 1 from IL, 1 from VA) have signed up for the many benefits of the SGP program. Welcome aboard and please call the SGP Answer Line (703-354-2172) if you need any assistance.

Save the Date: SGP Summit Rescheduled

The 3rd Annual Strategic Goals Program Summit has been rescheduled for February 20, 2002 at the AmeriSuites O'Hare in Chicago, Illinois from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM. There will be an informal SGP dinner the evening of February 19th. For information or to obtain a registration form, call the SGP Answer line (703-354-2172). Registration is free. Please call the AmeriSuites at 773-867-0000 to reserve a room. You are a leader, and we need to hear your opinions on the SGP.

Plan to attend. We hope to see you there.

News from EPA Headquarters

The Metal Finishing Facility Risk Screening Tool (MFFRST) is a user-friendly tool that enables users to estimate the health risks to workers and neighbors from metal finishing processes. The computer program was developed by the U.S. EPA under the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Metal Finishing Sector. MFFRST currently focuses on estimating inhalation exposures of residents living near facilities as well as exposures of workers to air emissions generated by metal finishing operations. The Office of Research and Development is currently working on expanding the capabilities of the software program to include liquid and solid wastes. Results from MFFRST can be of considerable use to industry, government, environmental groups, workers and residents living near metal finishing facilities. For more information, please e-mail EPA's Michael Hessling at Hessling.Michael@epa.gov

SGP GOAL-GETTERS

Skild Plating Saves with the SGP – Reduces Energy, Water Use, Insurance Premium

Skild Plating believes in progress. The company is making progress with the SGP - achieving savings and awards along the way. From 1997, when the company received the first annual Pollution Prevention Certificate of Commendation to 2001, when they were awarded the Bronze Award for Achievement under the SGP, Skild has looked for ways to excel. While searching for ways to improve its early 1970's pollution prevention system, owner Gary Weincouff quickly realized that to have a very efficient system, they would also have to update the process lines. With bright zinc and nickel, black oxide, passivating, degreasing, pickling and chromate conversion processes, a simple answer was hard to come by. Careful planning and a commitment to improving environmental performance and operational efficiency are reflected in the economic benefits of the solution. Water and sewer usages were reduced by 60%, a decline of 6,000 gallons per day. Raw material purchases saw a decline of 9%.

Skild retrofitted the entire 13,000 square foot plant with 4 barrel plating lines and 1 black oxide line and the pollution prevention system. Extra hoists and recoils were installed for each line, with the push from one hoist now being spread over as many as three hoists. Immediate benefits included fewer hoist breakdowns, longer dwell times and improved product quality. Drip trays, guards and containment drip areas were implemented to recapture all spent solutions. Containment curbing on all plating lines and pollution equipment was constructed. Floors were painted with epoxy and urethane for quick clean up.

All cyanide zinc-plating lines were converted to zinc chlorides. Nickel strippers were replaced with non-cyanide powders. Sulfuric acid replaced citric acid on the nickel plating line, converting it to a less hazardous waste stream. Employees also receive training in handling these chemicals. The record keeping system was updated, with daily logs kept on each plating line, as well as the pollution system. Data in the logs includes spent chemicals, operators, process times, problems that occur and production activities. Each tank has a sign (maintenance-free) that explains its contents in English and Spanish.

New state-of-the-art plating barrels were purchased from Hardwood Line. The design of the barrels is unique allowing 20% more volume as well as improved drainage, mixing and rinsing features. The opening and un-loading door design eliminates operator error and greatly reduces spills. Skild also has plans to install a new Hardwood Line barrel design by month's end that is expected to deliver dramatic improvements.

Switching from continuous wastewater discharge to batch discharge produced a 40-50% reduction in wastewater and equipment energy savings. Weincouff notes, "This change allowed room for operator error and equipment breakdowns. We have the time to correct mistakes." Skild's positive SGP results have not all been on the bottom line. Weincouff says the company has benefited from the excellent communication lines opened by the SGP with both the city of Chicago and the State.

The company has reaped other rewards from these efforts. Worker safety has improved greatly. The company even received a rebate from their Workman's Compensation Insurance provider after a company audit showed claims were at a minimum, and directly reflected the fact that Skild won the Metropolitan Water District of Greater Chicago Pollution Prevention Award! Still further progress was made in direct labor savings and raw chemical savings of 3.65% and 9.3%, respectively. And the profit ratio has escalated. Weincouff feels that the company attracts a more discerning customer that is willing to pay for the care Skild-Plating takes in protecting the environment. For more information, please contact Gary Weincouff at 773.227.0262.

Spotlight on the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center's "Win-Win" P2 Technology Opportunity

There are few business opportunities that have no downside. But, that is exactly what the Kentucky Pollution Prevention Center (KPPC) at the University of Louisville is offering. KPPC will recommend innovative pollution prevention (P2) approaches and technologies for participating metal finishing facilities and provide a portion of the financial assistance to pay for the capital expenditure. And here's the really good part – if the technology fails to pay for itself within the agreed trial period, the company does not have to repay KPPC and can still keep the equipment if they so desire.

This innovative program is all part of KPPC's Metal Finishing Initiative (MFI) to improve the diffusion of P2 technologies in the metal finishing industry. KPPC, like other work throughout the SGP, is demonstrating that the cost savings from P2 approaches and technologies can be significant. P2 techniques can be critical in improving company efficiency and profitability.

With this program, KPPC initially conducts a P2 assessment of the facility's metal finishing operations. After the assessment, KPPC provides a P2 report documenting the P2 opportunities with estimated cost savings and payback for the facility's metal finishing operations. If the facility agrees to implement any of these P2 opportunities, a proposal including costs and an agreement between KPPC and the facility is completed. The company typically agrees to the following:

- Install the technology within two to three months of signing the agreement;
- Pay for any subcontracted work to install the technology in a timely manner;
- Assist with monitoring and measuring necessary to complete the project; and
- Reimburse KPPC for all capital costs should the technology pay for itself within the 12-month trial period.

The project is a partnership, and after the proposal with a facility is signed, KPPC will purchase the necessary equipment. Initially, KPPC installs the equipment in a laboratory at the University of Louisville and conducts a pilot test for verification that the technology works and as a learning tool for the engineers. KPPC and the company then work together to install the equipment on the facility's plating lines. KPPC collects data during the pilot trial at the facility.

After the pilot trial is completed, KPPC determines final cost savings and other conclusions from the project. If the payback for the equipment is less than the agreed time period, the agreement stipulates that the company will reimburse KPPC for costs incurred. KPPC provides on-site technical assistance to the facility before, during and after implementation of these opportunities. KPPC provides a final report with the results and the agreement stipulates that KPPC can publish the results for technology transfer to other facilities and applications.

KPPC investigates and provides information regarding many of the primary P2 opportunities that exist for metal finishers. These opportunities include: conductivity controls, chemical substitution, wastewater reuse and recycling, bath filtration, acid/caustic recovery, energy efficiency and micro filtration.

KPPC is currently working with five companies in implementing such P2 opportunities for their metal finishing processes. One company (45 employees) has signed an agreement to install conductivity meters on (4) rinsing stages to reduce the amount of rinse water usage. For more information on KPPC and how a program like this can be implemented in your area, please contact Mary Joyce Freibert at 800-334-8635, #0148 or Richard Meisenholder, #2844.

UPCOMING SGP EVENTS...

The 3rd Annual Strategic Goals Program Summit

When: February 20, 2002

Where: Chicago, Illinois.

Your feedback counts! At this summit, participants will review SGP accomplishments and the program's current status; discuss significant issues facing the SGP; provide input on new directions for the SGP; and network with other SGP stakeholders (i.e., government, industry, NGO's and assistance providers). Call 703-354-2172 for registration information.

Toxic Chemical Release Inventory (TRI) and Annual Wastewater Reporting Workshop

When: April 23, 2002

Where: Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI

Hosted by the Michigan Environmental Assistance Center, this workshop is designed for traditional TRI reporters that potentially will be reporting under the revised rules for wastewater reporting. The workshop will cover EPCRA Section 313 and Section 6607 of the Pollution Prevention Act reporting requirements with detailed illustrations. EPA's automated TRI reporting software will be presented, and Michigan's TRI quality assurance will be discussed. The workshop will also cover the Annual Wastewater Report and how TRI reporting can satisfy some of these reporting requirements. Register on-line at www.deq.state.mi.us/ead/eosect/workshop.html. Registration Contact: Environmental Assistance Center, 800-662-9278, or E-mail at deq-ead-env-assist@michigan.gov.

Indiana Twelfth Annual P2 Conference for Platers

When: March 28, 2002

Where: Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Kathleen Bailey, EPA's new National SGP Program Manager, will present the first round of the Five-Star Awards for Metal Finishers. To apply for this prestigious award, SGP participants should obtain and complete a copy of the application form found at www.in.gov/idem/ctap/5star/. Click on the underlined word "application." Contact Drew Price at 317-234-1191 for more information

(Please add your local SGP events to the SGP online calendar! Visit <http://www.strategicgoals.org> and go to "Calendar of Events," then click on "add an event.")

The National Metal Finishing Strategic Goals Program is a voluntary program that encourages companies to meet environmental targets by 2002. The program offers incentives, assistance tools and a means for removing regulatory and policy barriers to achieve these environmental goals.

For more information, please call 703-354-2172.

The SGP Update is a regular feature of the national SGP Outreach Team. To receive it via email, send your email address to tonner@getf.org.

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